

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested prior to or concurrent with calculation of the filing fees.

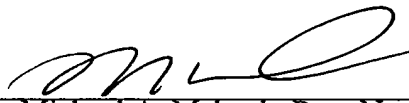
This Preliminary Amendment amends the claims to remove all multiple dependencies. This avoids the surcharge.

Examination on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 26, 2006